

## RESOLUTION 202 (BUSAN, 2014)

**Using information and communication technologies to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

*recalling*

- a) Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;
- b) § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- c) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;
- d) Resolution 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunications/ ICTs in the service of humanitarian assistance;
- e) Resolution 136 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, and for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

f) § 20 of Action Line C7 (E-environment) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by the first phase of WSIS, calling for the establishment of monitoring systems using ICTs to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries<sup>1</sup>,

*recognizing*

a) the seriousness and magnitude of potential disasters, including outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola, that may cause dramatic human suffering;

b) the recent tragic events in the world that clearly demonstrate the need for high-quality communications infrastructure and for the availability and dissemination of information to assist public safety, health and disaster-relief agencies;

c) the need to minimize risk to human life and to cover the necessary general public information and communication needs in such situations, and the conviction that the unhindered use of telecommunication/ICT equipment and services is indispensable for the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance,

*recognizing further*

a) that there will be a continuing need to assist developing countries in the use of ICTs to preserve life by ensuring a timely flow of information to government agencies, consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in rescue and recovery operations and in the provision of medical assistance to those affected by health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

b) that information needs to be accessible and available in local languages so as to ensure maximum impact;

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<sup>1</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c) that policy-makers need to create an enabling environment to leverage the use of ICTs to address infrastructure and information needs in emergency situations and to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

d) that the contribution of the private sector is necessary in the prevention, mitigation and relief of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

e) that a common understanding of the network infrastructure components is required in order to provide rapidly-installed, interoperable, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief operations for health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission,

*considering*

a) that ICTs are critical for addressing all phases of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

b) that aspects of emergency communications associated with health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission include, *inter alia*, disaster prediction, detection, alerting and enabling the flow of information to keep individuals informed as to actions they can take to preserve life;

c) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) m-powering initiative is designed to focus on the use of ICTs to empower communities and people,

*noting*

§ 51 of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention,

*resolves*

1 to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the other Directors:

1.1 to develop guidelines and best practices on how ICTs can be used to identify the communications infrastructure needed to support the exchange of timely information on health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission;

1.2 to develop feasibility studies, project management tools and support to respond to and address health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission,

2 to instruct the Secretary-General:

2.1 to collaborate with all relevant parties, including United Nations agencies and in particular the World Health Organization, in order to define and engage in programmes to respond to and address health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission in areas within the scope and mandate of ITU;

2.2 to implement measures aimed at mobilizing support from governments, industry and other partners to break the chain of health-related emergencies such as Ebola virus transmission,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to cooperate and offer all possible assistance and support to consumers, humanitarian-oriented organizations and industry involved in ICTS, including for disease tracking and natural and man-made disaster and emergency response, rescue and recovery operations;

2 to promote regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes to address the need to use ICTs as a tool to support responses to different types of disasters such as Ebola, so that life-saving infrastructure and information can be provided to local communities, especially in local languages.